being incorporated fully herein by reference: a U.S. patent application filed on October 17, 2000 and assigned Serial No. 09/690,204, which is currently pending, itself a continuing application of an earlier filed U.S. patent application filed on November 4, 1999 and assigned Serial No. 09/433,478 which issued a U.S. Patent No. 6,132,446 on October 17, 2000; and finally, a U.S. patent application filed on November 4, 1999 and assigned Serial No. 09/433,479 which is currently pending.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

Claim 2. (Presently Amended) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a surgical device that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye of a patient along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;

said blade having a front portion and rear portion;

said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a portion of the cornea of an eye;

said front portion having an overall dimension which is larger than the rear portion;

said blade having an edge for engaging said blade holder;

said blade holder having a top side and an underside said underside having a flanged portion which engages said edge whereby moving said blade holder correspondingly moves said blade; and

[said] an underside of said blade being inclined at an angle with respect to said top side, said top side adapted to be driven by a pin.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a surgical device that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye of a patient along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;

said blade having a front portion and rear portion;

said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a portion of the cornea of an eye;

said front portion having an overall dimension which is larger than the rear portion;

said blade having an edge for engaging said blade holder; and

said blade holder having a top side and an underside, said underside having a flanged portion which engages said edge whereby moving said blade holder correspondingly moves said blade.

Claim 4. (Presently Amended) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein [said] an underside of said blade is [being] inclined at an angle with respect to said top side, said top side adapted to be driven by a pin.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said front blade portion has a front dimension and said read blade portion has a rear dimension, said front dimension being wider than said rear dimension.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein said front

dimension of said front blade portion is defined by said cutting edge, which is wider than any dimension of said rear blade portion.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said blade holder is formed from a plastic material and is attached to said blade by a press fit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a microkeratome that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;

said blade having a front portion and a rear portion;

said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a portion of the cornea of an eye;

said rear portion including a side edge which is tapered with respect to said cutting edge;

said blade holder having an underside secured to said blade and a top side including a recess adapted to receive an oscillation pin.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said recess is structured to receive said oscillation pin from a generally vertical plane.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said blade holder includes a sidewall which extends between said top side and said underside, said sidewall generally tapering from a front of said blade holder to a back of said blade holder.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said blade further comprises an edge and said blade holder comprises a flange for engaging said edge.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said tapered side edge comprises a generally linear taper.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said tapered side edge comprises a generally rounded taper.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly comprising: a blade holder and a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, wherein said blade holder includes a top side including means for being operably driven by an oscillating pin.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said means for being operably driven comprise a recess.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade is shaped so as to avoid interference with movement along an arcuate path when oscillated.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade comprises a cutting edge, said cutting edge being wider than at least another portion of said blade.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises at least four edges.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises a front portion and a rear portion.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said blade further comprises a side which tapers between said front portion to said rear portion.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said front portion includes a cutting edge, said cutting edge of said front portion of said blade is wider than said rear portion.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises an aperture, said blade holder secured to said blade at said aperture.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein said blade holder comprises a lock segment structured to extend into said aperture.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 further comprising a handle removably connected to said blade holder.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly to be used with a microkeratome having a cutting head assembly that moves across a positioning ring, the microkeratome blade assembly comprising:

a blade holder and a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, said cutting blade shaped so as to avoid interference with movement of the cutting head assembly as said cutting blade oscillates and moves across the positioning ring along an arcuate path.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade holder is structured to be operably driven at a top side thereof.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim[[s]] 25 wherein said blade holder is structured to be operably driven from a generally vertical orientation.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade holder includes a recess structured to receive a pin from a generally vertical orientation.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade comprises a cutting edge, said cutting edge being wider than at least another portion of said blade.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade further comprises at least four edges.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade further comprises a front portion and a rear portion.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said blade further comprises a side which tapers between said front portion to said rear portion.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said front portion includes a cutting edge, said cutting edge of said

front portion of said blade is wider than said rear portion.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade further comprises an aperture, said blade holder secured to said blade at said aperture.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 34 wherein said blade holder comprises a lock segment structured to extend into said aperture.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 further comprising a handle removably connected to said blade holder.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) A microkeratome blade assembly to be used with a microkeratome having a cutting head assembly that moves across a positioning ring, the microkeratome blade assembly comprising:

a blade holder; and

a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, said cutting blade shaped to provide clearance from the positioning ring as the microkeratome cutting blade assembly is oscillated such that

said cutting blade will not interfere with movement of the cutting head assembly across the positioning ring along an arcuate path.

Claim 38. (Canceled)